

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the subject application as amended. In response to the Office Action mailed 10/27/03, Applicant is filing this amendment. Please amend claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 11, 16, 17, 19, 24-27, 30-32, 35 and 41. Claims 7, 9, 15, 23, 29 and 34 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-6, 8, 10-14, 16-22, 24-28, 30-33 and 35-45 are still pending.

In the Office Action mailed 10/27/03, the Examiner has rejected the pending claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Hagersten et al. (U.S. Patent 5,987,549). Applicant submits that Hagersten et al. (Hagersten) fails to disclose the elements of the independent claims. Hagersten discloses a low-latency distributed round-robin arbitration which is used to grant requests for access to a shared resource such as a computer system bus. Hagersten further discloses a so-called fast/slow arbitration and a so-called bus parking arbitration. In the bus parking method, the previous winner (of an arbitration) is allowed to drive the bus immediately, whereas all other devices must arbitrate to become the next winner. In the fast/slow method, the system in the fast mode allows any board to drive the address bus immediately along with the request; but if there is a collision, then the mode switches to slow, and the winner is determined using round robin (Hagersten at col. 6, line 66 to col. 7, line 28).

The embodiments of the present invention as claimed in the independent claims recite a predetermined agent that is to be given default grant of the bus. The default status is not arbitrated among agents to determine which agent is to receive the default status. Furthermore, the predetermined default status allows the predetermined agent to have the grant without arbitrating for the bus, although the agent (with the default grant) may arbitrate for the bus along with the other agents. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Hagersten fails to disclose these aspects of the claimed embodiments of the invention and respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection.

Accordingly, Applicant solicits for the allowance of pending claims 1-6, 8, 10-14, 16-22, 24-28, 30-33 and 35-45, as amended.

If there are any fee shortages related to this response, please charge such fee shortages to Deposit Account No. 50-2126.

Respectfully submitted,

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